

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 NEA-10 AF-10 IO-14 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 AID-20

EB-11 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 STR-08 CEA-02 COME-00 FRB-02

XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06 SIL-01 SCEM-02 SCI-06 INT-08

FPC-01 CG-00 DRC-01 /238 W
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R 111645Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8313

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

USOECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:ENRG, DA

SUBJECT: DANISH MOTOR GASOLINE SUPPLY

REF: OSLO 0119

1. WE WERE SURPRISED BY COMMENTS MADE BY NORWEGIAN
COMMERCE MINISTER EVENSEN (PARA 5 REFTTEL) THAT GASOLINE
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IN DENMARK WAS SO SCARCE THAT THE DANISH GOVERNMENT COULD

NOT INTRODUCE RATIONING. BOTH DANISH COMMERCE MINISTRY AND OIL COMPANY OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN TELLING US THAT LEAST RPT LEAST SCARCE OIL PRODUCT IN DENMARK IS MOTOR GASOLINE. GOVERNMENT HAS, IN FACT, BEEN TRYING TO FIND WAY TO ELIMINATE NON-DRIVING SUNDAYS WHICH ARE HIGHLY UNPOPULAR. HOWEVER, SINCE REDUCED SPEED LIMITS AND SUNDAY RESTRICTIONS HAVE COMBINED TO REDUCE GASOLINE CONSUMPTION BY DESIRED 15 PERCENT, OIL COMPANIES TOLD GOVERNMENT THAT ONLY ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVE TO LIFTING SUNDAY RESTRICTIONS IS RATIONING. THIS GOVERNMENT DOES NOT WANT TO DO BECAUSE IT IS BOTH DIFFICULT TO SET UP AND ENFORCE.

2. LATEST STATISTICS, PUBLISHED BY GOVERNMENT JANUARY 11, SHOW THAT MOTOR GASOLINE STOCKS ARE EXPECTED TO INCREASE MARGINALLY IN FEBRUARY OVER DECEMBER FIGURE. SINCE THIS IS PERIOD OF NORMAL INVENTORY BUILD-UP FOR PEAK SPRING AND SUMMER DEMAND, GOVERNMENT DOES NOT REGARD SITUATION AS SATISFACTORY BUT HAS NO RPT NO IMMEDIATE PLANS FOR FURTHER RESTRICTIONS. OIL COMPANY SOURCES TELL US THAT GASOLINE SUPPLIES REMAIN COMFORTABLE AT PRESENT LEVELS OF REDUCED CONSUMPTION.

3. REGARDING POINT EVENSEN MADE ABOUT SCANDINAVIAN COORDINATION ON OIL PURCHASES AND CONSUMPTION RESTRICTIONS, DANSK ESSO PRESIDENT TOLD US JANUARY 10 THAT HE HAD MEETING WITH SWEDISH AND NORWEGIAN ESSO PRESIDENTS EARLIER IN DAY AND ALL AGREED THEY SAW NO RPT NO EVIDENCE OF SUCH COORDINATION.

4. EMBASSY COMMENT: WE WILL BE SEEING COMMERCE MINISTRY OFFICIALS AFTER THEY HAVE COMPLETED THEIR CURRENT REVIEW OF OIL SITUATION FOR MORE COMPLETE REPORT ON DANISH GOVERNMENT PLANNING IN OIL SECTOR.
DUNNIGAN

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